

A young child with dark hair, wearing a red hoodie, is focused on playing with a wooden toy ramp. The ramp has several colorful slides (blue, yellow, red, green) and the child is reaching towards it. A NASA 'ASTRONAUT IN TRAINING' tag is hanging from the child's neck. The background is softly blurred, showing an indoor setting.

City of
SACRAMENTO

Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

SACRAMENTO CHILDREN'S FUND

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025

Sacramento's future begins with its youth and children. The Sacramento Children's Fund was created to ensure every youth and child, regardless of background, has access to programs that support wellness, learning and opportunity. This first year marks the start of a lasting promise to invest in our young people.

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Welcome to Our Annual Report

After a decade long campaign, Measure L provides a dedicated, long-term investment in the well-being of children and youth across our city. In our first year, we built the foundation for this historic initiative, establishing the Planning and Oversight Commission, adopting a five-year Strategic Investment Plan, and awarding nearly \$18 million in grants to programs that advance mental health, early childhood development, youth homelessness prevention, substance abuse prevention, and violence reduction.

This report shares our progress, celebrates the partnerships that make this work possible, and reflects on lessons learned as we continue our commitment to equity, community voice, and meaningful opportunities for Sacramento's young people.



Background

Measure L

In November 2022, voters in the City of Sacramento passed Measure L, establishing the Sacramento Children's Fund (SCF) as a dedicated funding stream for child and youth services.

The Sacramento Children's Fund is supported by general fund revenue, as determined by the City's existing Cannabis Business Operations Tax (CBOT), which supplies an estimated \$8-10 million annually to fund programs and services for children and youth less than 25 years of age.



Fund Goals

Five fund goals provide overarching direction for investing available funds.



MENTAL HEALTH

Support the mental health and emotional wellness of children and youth.



HOMELESSNESS

Prevent and reduce homelessness among children and youth, including youth transitioning out of foster care.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Prevent and reduce youth substance abuse.



YOUTH VIOLENCE

Prevent and reduce youth violence.



CHILDREN 0-5

Support the healthy development of children ages 0 -5 years old.



Financial Overview

Funding Source

Sacramento Children's Fund monies come from the City of Sacramento general fund. Specifically, the SCF receives a general fund allocation of 40% of the annual revenue generated from CBOT. This amounts to an estimated \$8-10 million annually in resources dedicated toward child and youth services, in addition to the City's existing baseline funding.

Fiscal 2024 marks the first year of funding for the Sacramento Children's Fund. The final audited amount of Sacramento Children's Fund monies for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$9,340,800. The fiscal year 2024/2025 Sacramento Children's Fund allocation is estimated to increase to \$9,683,700.

Estimated Budget for FY23/24 - FY27/28

The following table outlines the estimated budget for the five-year Strategic Investment Plan

Fiscal Year	Estimated Total Fund	Administration	Program Investment Total	GBI (20%)	Open Grants
23/24 (actual)	\$9,340,800	\$1,868,160 (20%)	\$7,472,640	\$1,494,528	\$5,978,112
24/25	\$9,683,700	\$1,452,555 (15%)	\$8,231,145	\$1,646,229	\$6,584,916
25/26	\$9,328,745	\$932,874 (10%)	\$8,395,871	\$1,679,174	\$6,716,697
26/27	\$9,328,745	\$932,874 (10%)	\$8,395,871	\$1,679,174	\$6,716,697
27/28	\$9,328,745	\$932,874 (10%)	\$8,395,871	\$1,679,174	\$6,716,697
Total	\$47,010,735	\$6,119,337 (20%)	\$40,891,398	\$8,178,279	\$32,713,119

Fiscal Year 2024 - Administrative Expenditures

Administrative Line Item	Budget	Actual	Remaining
Staffing Cost			
Program Manager (.10 FTE)	\$16,184.00	\$0.00	\$16,184.00
Program Specialist (1.0 FTE)	\$147,149.00	\$67,779.55	\$79,369.45
Administrative Analyst (1.0 FTE)	\$126,620.00	\$0.00	\$126,620.00
Administrative Analyst (1.0 FTE)	\$126,620.00	\$0.00	\$126,620.00
Administrative Analyst OYD (.20 FTE)	\$25,324.00	\$0.00	\$25,324
Rec General Supervisor (.5 FTE)	\$6,543.00	\$0.00	\$6,543
City Auditor's Office	\$150,000.00	\$99,336.00	\$50,664.00
City Clerk's Office	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$596,440.00	\$167,115.55	\$429,324.45
Consultant Contracts			
Third Plateau	\$249,895	\$0.00	\$249,895
CBOT Auditor	\$18,500	\$0.00	\$18,500
Other Contracts (Evaluation, Capacity Building, ETC)	\$250,000	\$0.00	\$250,00
Subtotal	\$518,395	\$0.00	\$518,395
Community Engagement & Capacity Building			
Focus Group Stipends + Food	\$5,000	\$3,463.7	\$1,656.29
Community Engagment & Marketing Materials	\$25,000	\$0.00	\$25,000
Subtotal	\$30,000	\$3,463.71	\$26,656.29
Program Services, Supplies and Subscriptions			
Office Supplies + Computer Supplies	\$10,000	\$ 3,692.47	\$6,307.53
Grants Management System Subscriptions (x4)	\$20,000	\$0.00	\$20,000
Commissioner Stipends	\$4,500	\$0.00	\$4,500
Subtotal	\$34,500	\$3,692.47	\$30,807.53
Projected Admin Rollover FY24 to FY25			
Rollover/Savings	\$688,825.00	\$0.00	\$688,825.00
Subtotal	\$1,868,160.00	\$174,151.73	\$1,694,008.27

Fiscal Year 2024 - Program Budget

Program Line Item	Budget	Encumbered	Remaining
SCF Open Grants	\$5,978,112	\$5,978,112	\$0.00
Gauranteed Basic Income	\$1,494,528	-	\$1,494,528
Total	\$7,427,640		\$7,427,640

The Commission

Measure L created a new nine-member Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission. The Commission, is responsible for developing and reviewing strategic investment plans, annual service performance reports, and periodic youth impact evaluation reports.

The first Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission was established in Fall of 2023 and held it's first meeting on December 13, 2023. Our commissioners come from various backgrounds and are equipped with multiple qualifications to support the Measure L initiative. The commissioner roster below represents the FY2024 appointed body.



Gina Richardson - District 1

Gina "RichE" Richardson is an energetic, encouraging, inspirational speaker, empathetic facilitator, the Founder of The Mindfully Rich Brand, and creator and host of The Mindfully Rich Podcast. Gina holds over 17 years of experience as a financial wellness professional and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise as an energetic and encouraging Certified Financial Educator, Coach, Inspirational Speaker, and empathetic facilitator. In addition to thriving in the media space, Gina is a champion of financial health, diversity, equity, inclusion, and youth development.



Verbal Adam - District 2 (Former Vice Chair)

Verbal Adam formerly served as the Vice Chair of the Planning and Oversight Commission. He was appointed to that role for his extensive work on behalf of underprivileged youth in Sacramento. In addition to being a youth advocate, Verbal is an experienced media professional who has worked for global media entities like Sirius XM Satellite Radio and World Wrestling Entertainment. He holds multiple press credentials and most recently served as Correspondent to the Sacramento Observer which was named #1 Black Newspaper in America in 2023. In addition to his professional experience, Verbal is also a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy and received an award from the FBI in 2023 for Marksmanship.



Volma Volcy - District 3

Volma Volcy is dedicated and committed to making a real difference in Sacramento. As a father, husband, and someone who juggles the hats of a community organizer, labor leader, small business owner, and non-profit executive, Volma is deeply invested in building a better, more equitable Sacramento for his kids and every child in the community. His journey is fueled by a desire not just to dream of a fairer society but to roll up his sleeves and work towards it every day.



Shannon William - District 4

Shannon Williams is the Executive Director of the Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State University. Shannon has over 25 years of experience conducting evaluations of programs and policies focused on the well-being of children and youth. Shannon is a proud native of Sacramento and is committed to ensuring that all communities have equitable access to the resources and supports they need to thrive. Shannon lives in East Sacramento and is the mom of a middle-schooler.



Davon Thomas - District 5

Davon Thomas is an Associate with Townsend Public Affairs. As the son of a formerly incarcerated individual, Davon has always believed that your zip code should not determine your quality of life. He received his Bachelor of Arts in American History from UC Santa Cruz, where he served as Student Body President. Davon went on to obtain his Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy & Governance.



Lilian Ghafari - District 6

Lilian Ghafari is a Marriage and Family Therapist who specializes in working with children and youth. Lilian received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Therapy at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and received a Master of Science degree in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling at California State University Sacramento. Lilian has over 10 years of experience working in direct services, providing services for various populations including youth experiencing homelessness, victims of sexual assault/domestic violence, and children in the foster system. Lilian currently serves as Vice President of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association and loves living in Sacramento.



Nicole Kravitz-Writz - District 7

Nicole Kravitz-Writz is a graduate of Miwok Middle School (formerly Sutter Middle School) and C.K. McClatchy High School. After receiving her masters degree in public health and her doctoral degree in sociology, Nicole returned to Sacramento in 2017 and currently resides in District 7. She is passionate about her ongoing work as an educator and applied researcher with the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program, where she continues her more than a decade of work using data and evidence to lift up non-punitive, community-centered efforts for reducing and preventing violence and improving community safety and health equity outcomes for all young people, families, and communities in the Sacramento region, and particularly those experiencing the greatest burdens of violence and systemic inequities.



Khaalid Muttaqi - District 8 (Former Commissioner)

Khaalid has overseen the design and implementation of violence prevention, intervention and youth development programming in several California cities as a direct service provider, manager, and director in both non-profit and local government settings for over twenty years. He has led citywide grantmaking processes that prioritize investments in the most high-need populations while lifting up community-led alternatives to punishment and incarceration. He authored and implemented a comprehensive strategic plan for the City of Sacramento which resulted in historic reductions in gang and youth violence. He currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer for Advance Peace, a national gun violence reduction agency, where he works to ensure its strategic direction by strengthening structure, management systems and collaborative partnership outcomes.



Monica Ruelas Mares - District 8 Chair

Mónica Ruelas Mares (she/they) - Chair and Mayoral Appointee to the Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission. Mónica was born and raised in Meadowview/South Sacramento and is the proud daughter of immigrants from Mexico. She is passionate about policy change via building transformational relationships and partnerships between local government/institutions and the communities they serve. Mónica is the Manager of Local Children's Policy at Youth Forward, an organization that is dedicated to improving the health, education, and wellbeing of Sacramento's most vulnerable youth and children.

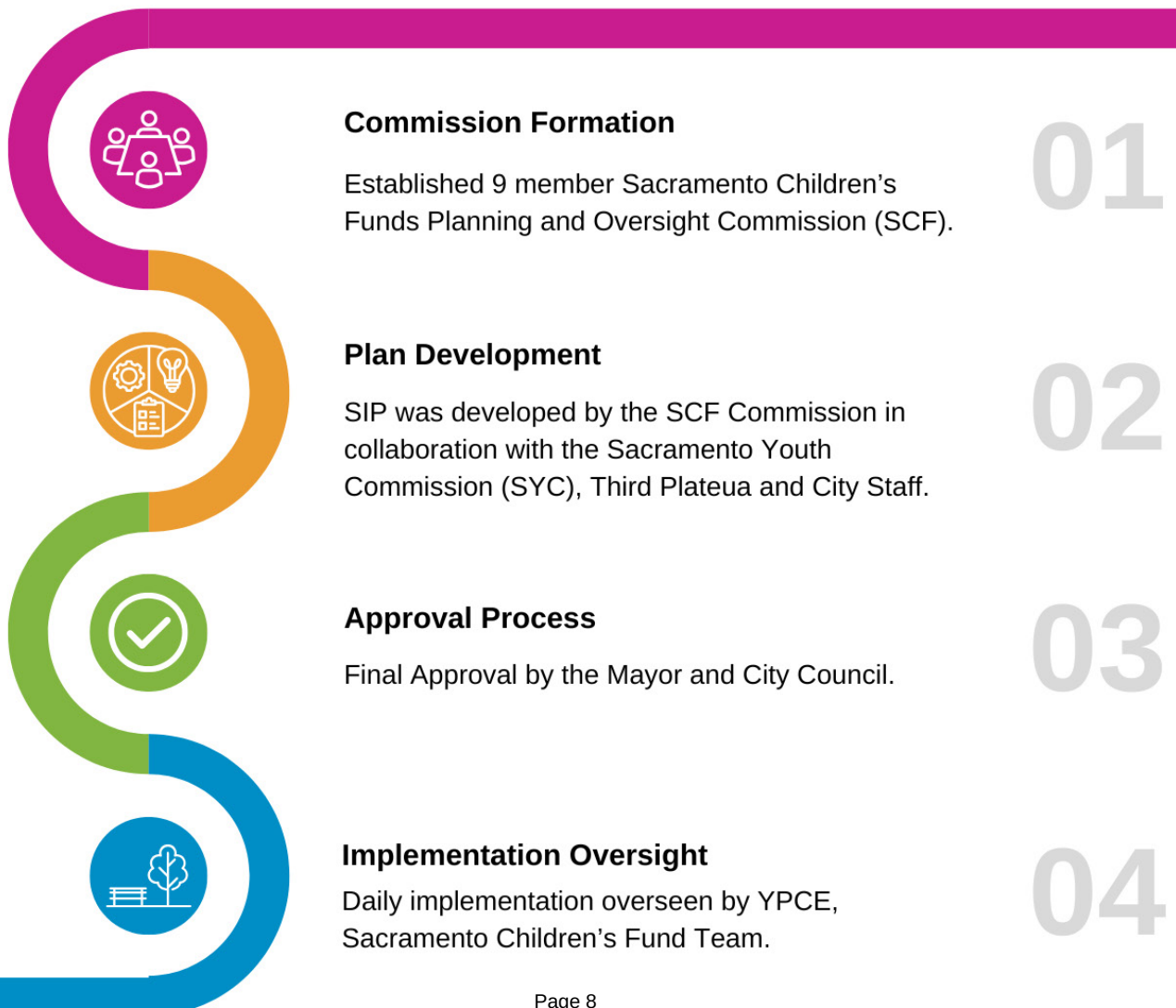
Timeline Overview

Jul 2023 – Commission Appointment
Sep 2023 – Strategic Planning Begins
Dec 2023 – First SCF Commission Meeting
Feb–Jun 2024 – Community Engagement
May–Aug 2024 – Drafting of Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)
Aug 2024 – Commission SIP Approval
Sep 2024 – City Council SIP Approval
Nov–Dec 2024 – Request for Proposal

The Strategic Investment Plan

The current five-year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2029) Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) was approved by City Council in September of 2024. The SIP overviews the goals of the SCF and the opportunities and challenges that Sacramento is facing in relation to these goals. Strategies for programming, funding allocations, fund management, and public accountability recommended by the SCF Commission are also discussed.

The Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission convened for 14 public meetings between January and September of 2024 to develop the Strategic Investment Plan in collaboration with The Sacramento Youth Commission and Third Plateau.



The plan includes the following key components:

- **Community Input** | This plan was informed by a landscape scan, frameworks for youth development, and community voice, including through a community survey and a series of community listening sessions.
- **Focus on Equity** | The five-year Strategic Investment Plan prioritizes children and youth who are the farthest from services and resources to ensure they receive maximum access to and benefit from SCF-funded programs. The SIP recommends using the SEED/COI tool to direct funds to agencies serving the neighborhoods, schools, and communities where youth experience the greatest impacts of poverty, trauma, and violence.
- **Recommended Strategies** | The SIP outlines a series of program strategies that were identified based on community input and documented effectiveness. These strategies align with the mission, vision, and goals of the SCF. Additionally, the SCF Commission recommended utilizing part of the Fund's budget to support a Guaranteed Basic Income Program for youth who are transitioning out of foster care.

The Request for Proposals

The Sacramento Children's Fund (SCF) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for open grants from November 6, 2024 - December 6, 2024. The City received program proposals from non-profit organizations and public agencies to provide services to children and youth in Sacramento, as outlined in the SCF Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

The Sacramento Children's Fund awards reflect a portfolio of programs and projects most likely to target the children and youth (aged birth - 24 years) most impacted by poverty, trauma and violence in one of the following five fund goals:

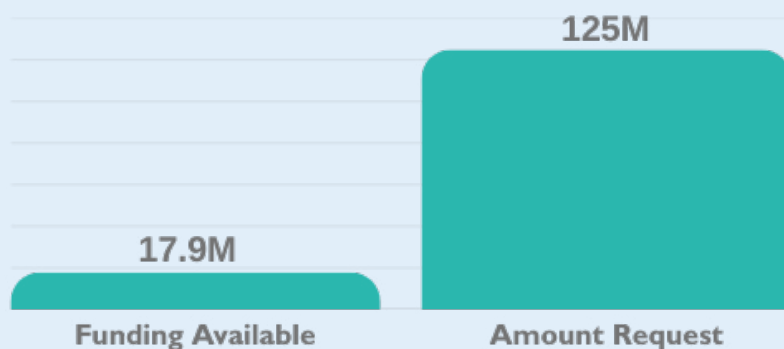
- Ages 0-5
- Violence Prevention
- Reduce Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Reduce Homelessness

Funding Gap at a Glance



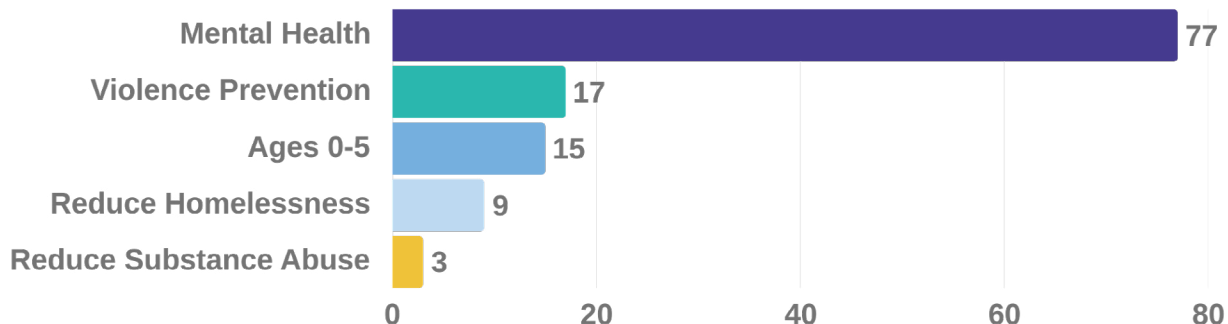
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Applications surge
beyond available
funding.”

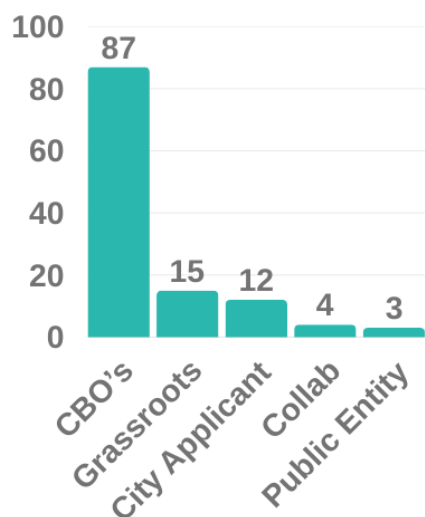


Mental Health Tops Every Metric

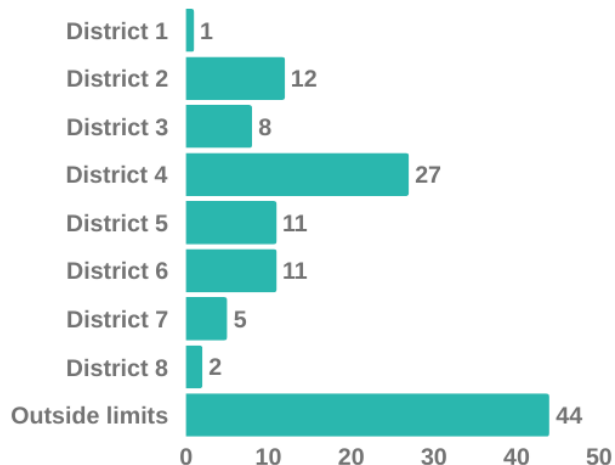
Over **60%** of applicants (77 to 121) are seeking funding for mental health support.



Application Types



District Breakdown

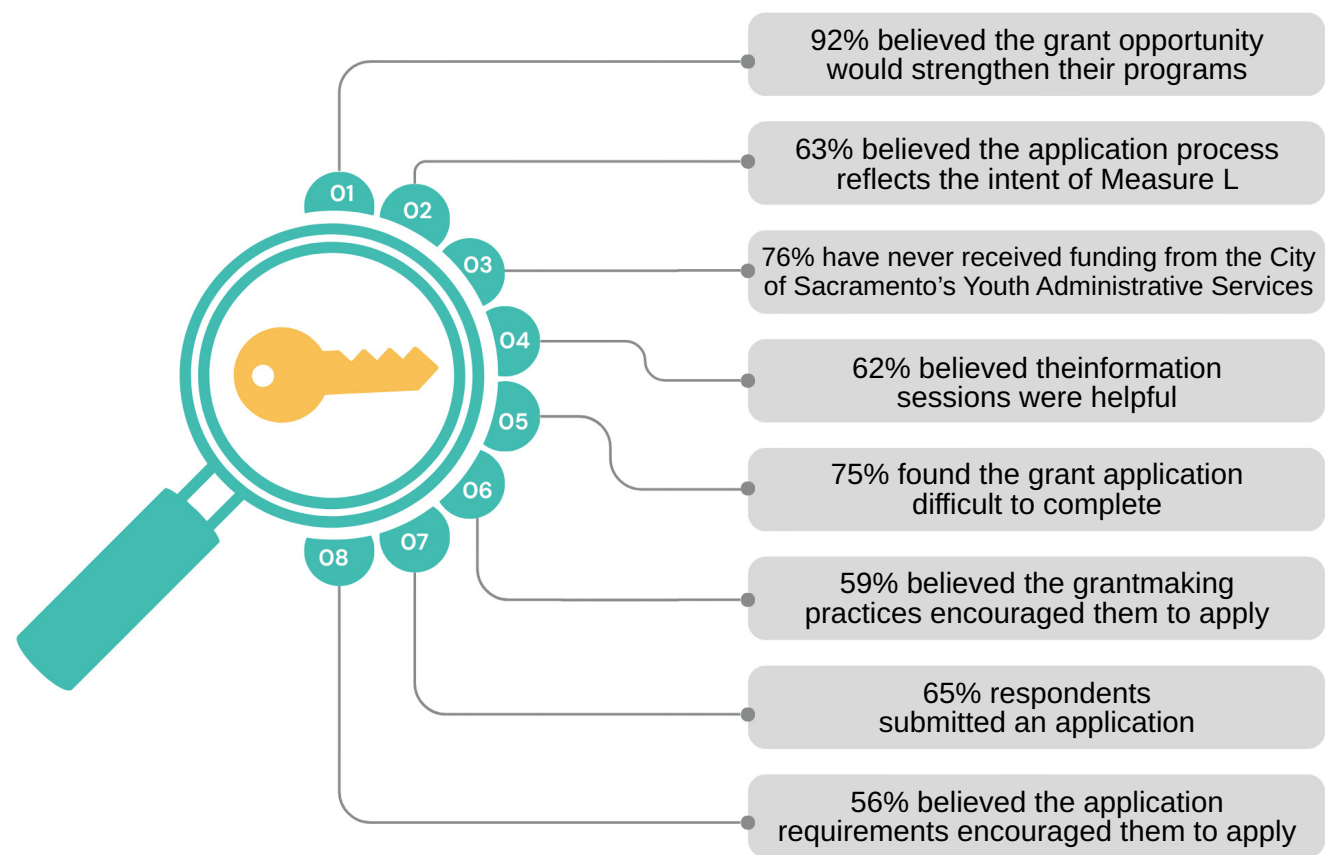


Request for Proposals – Public Survey

Immediately following the closure of the RFP application period, City staff released a survey aimed at determining the extent the Request for Proposal for the Sacramento Children’s Fund met the objectives of Measure L and the Sacramento Children’s Fund Strategic Investment Plan (SIP): encouraging equity, youth voice, community engagement, transparency and accountability, social justice principles, and alignment with the youth development framework. The purpose of this survey was to identify areas improvement for future grantmaking. The methodology used was a survey and interviews with 68¹ respondents that include applicants and non-applicants from December 2024 to January 2025. City staff will take the feedback into consideration in the development of future applications.

Findings

Grantmaking: To what extent does the request for proposal and process reflect the intent of Measure L 32%² of the grant practices and application requirements were newly introduced to increase eligibility for more organizations and facilitate the ability to create an operating



¹Response rate: 63 respondents completed the survey and 5 were interviewed out of 1200 that were sent the survey in the Grant Management System. The survey and interviews were administered by the Data, Learning, and Evaluation Specialist at the Youth Development Administration. ² Six of the of the twenty equity focused grant practices and application requirements introduced as a result of SCF were: 1) Opportunity to apply as a collaborative applicant, 2) Small CBOs/Grassroot or Emerging Applicants may allocate up to 15% of the total grant request may be allocated to indirect costs (e.g., management, accounting, and general office expenses), 3) 25% of grant funds upon initial grant agreement execution, 4) Deliver services in one

Feedback

Overall, respondents appreciated the opportunity to share their experience, however a few were concerned whether their feedback would make a difference. Most shared they were grateful for the funding opportunity to scale up their programs. The common concern was creating an equitable opportunity for small community-based organizations (CBOs), whether to reconsider their role and/or reduce the eligibility requirements. The CBOs that were interviewed said it was an exhaustive list of information and documentation required.

Common themes are summarized from feedback shared in the open-ended questions and interviews were categorized by four types of information grantmaking protocols, logistics of the application, recommendations, and appreciation. The most frequently shared feedback via open response is listed with the number of respondents.

Grantmaking Protocols

Common Themes: Small CBOs found it difficult to apply due to financial requirements such as an audit, 501(c)(3) status, and other financial requirements, some were unaware of the grant opportunity, and funding guidelines appeared more focused on the applicant than the community.

Feedback Shared: Audit requirement were too high for a small organization with a \$200k/year budget organization (6); unaware of grant opportunity (3); did not qualify due the lack of 501(c)(3) status (2); general operations percentage under 15% was too low; insurance requirement; the city requirements should match the federal government requirements for an audit at \$2M; lack of capacity to deliver; no collaboration allowed with CBOs that do not have tax exempt status; a budgetary requirement; and a service requirement; confusion on award amount 500k max for 3 years or 500k per year; funding guidelines appeared more focused on the applicant than the community; difficult to forecast the number of participants serving; COI leaves out the homeless in downtown where many live; and information session did not align with the RFP.

Logistics of Application

Common Themes: Respondents said they needed more time and space to complete the sections and less documents to review and refer to.

Feedback Shared: Word count too short (7); application too long for organizations delivering on several of the goals (5); too short application window (3) for youth engagement; application submission was easy and straightforward (3); too many documents to cross reference (3); RFP instructions made it seem harder than it actually is (process was easier than expected) (2); busy holiday period (2); cross referencing did not match page (2); technical issues with application portal; too many documents required (2); template and formatting challenges; attachments could have been in one continuous section or by sections or by single individual files; a few questions were repetitive/redundant; confusion on which goal to select; and budget templates cells were locked.

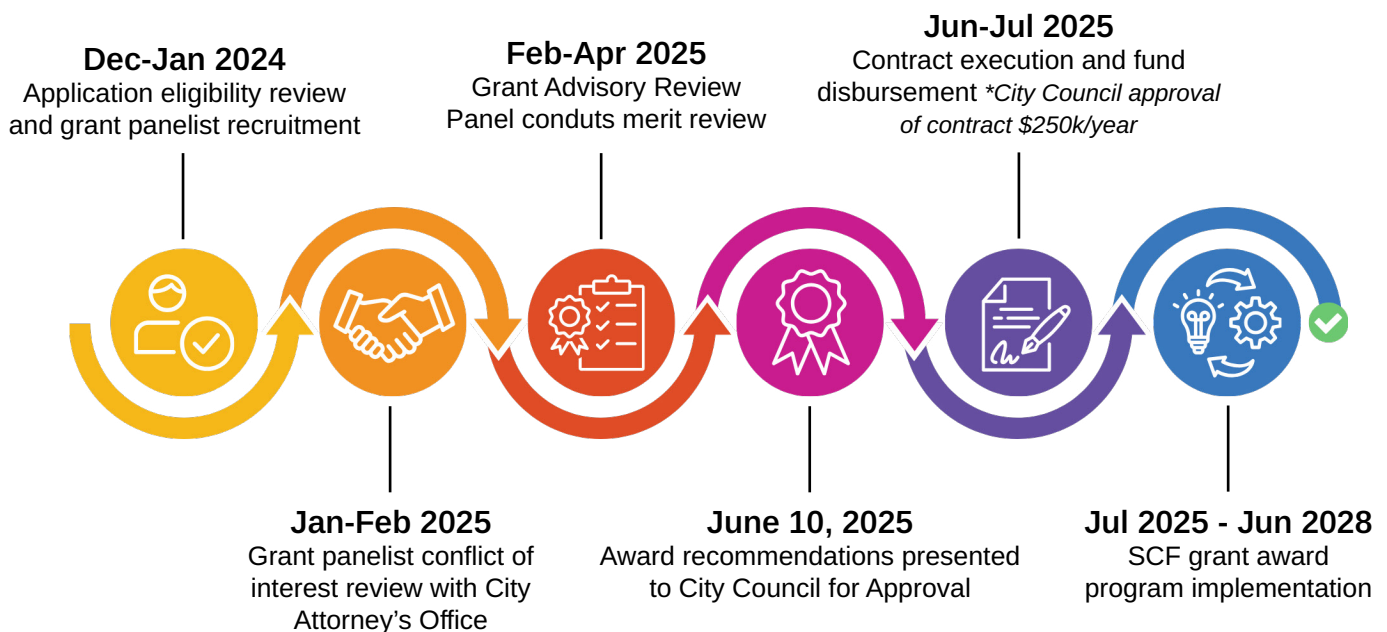
Recommendations

Common Themes: Streamline and simplify the application, narrow the scope of the Fund's investment so outcomes can be attributed to the Fund with a more tangible solution and then scale-up, reconsider how small CBOs can support the Funds efforts because of the breadth of the solutions and accountability required, and conduct more outreach to small CBOs.

Feedback Shared: Develop a method for newer and less-experienced organizations to be able to compete in the RFP process; rather than require a full explanation for each goal suggest that requirement for the primary goal and how the secondary goals would be impacted; narrow the scope with a more specific goal would help demonstrate outcomes, impact, and measurements with a more tangible solution and then scale-up; (results will likely be heavy on outputs- based/activity but not outcomes because we won't be able to pin point what lead to what); reconsider how small CBOs can support the Funds efforts because of the breadth of the solutions and accountability required; recommend more outreach to small CBOs (i.e. Sacramento Community Regional Foundation that coordinates Big Day Of Giving); inform applicant in advance that templates would be provided to save time and effort; require organization to participate in mandated reporter trainings; include a confirmation notice at the end of the application submission, and rather than submit for 18 months recommend submitting by a 12-month calendar year (easier to calculate for 12 months).

Appreciation

Common Themes: Those interviewed appreciated the opportunity to share their feedback in the survey and in an interview.



Feedback shared: Appreciated being asked for feedback (5); appreciated the rubric to know how an applicant will be evaluated; smooth and clear application process including the information sessions online and in-person; thank you for an excellent opportunity for Sacramento

Grant Review Advisory Panel

Sacramento Children's Fund staff, in collaboration with and with the substantive review of the City Attorney's Office, recruited a multi-disciplinary Grant Advisory Review Panel to review and evaluate applications using a set of scoring criteria established in the RFP.

The Grant Advisory Review Panel was composed of five panels that reviewed a mix of applications. Application review was conducted in two rounds during the months of February, March and April 2025.

Consistent with current City practices, Grant Advisory Review Panelists were selected for their knowledge, skills, and expertise related to youth programming and the five fund goals outlined in Measure L. Diversity and inclusion principles were also considered when selecting panelists.

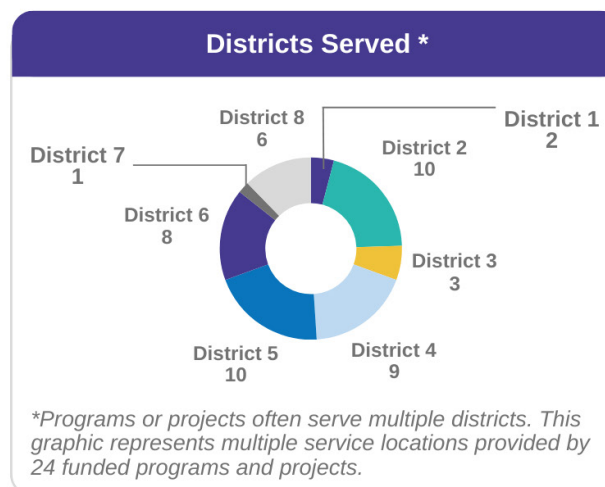
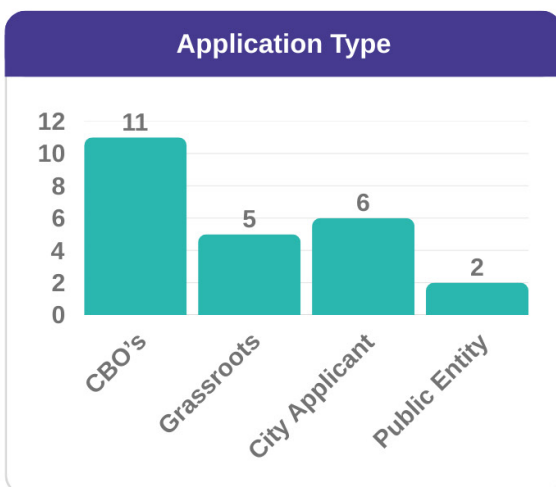
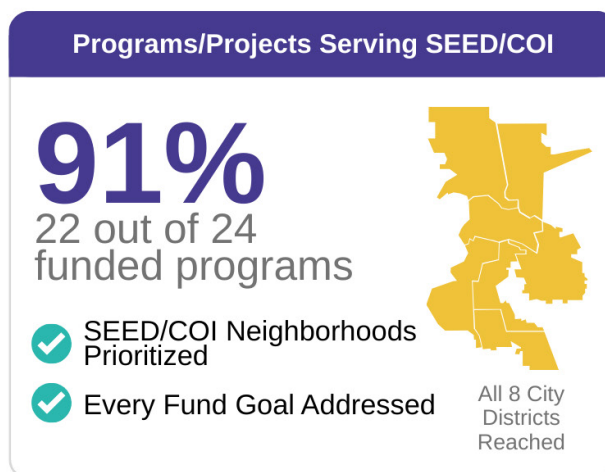
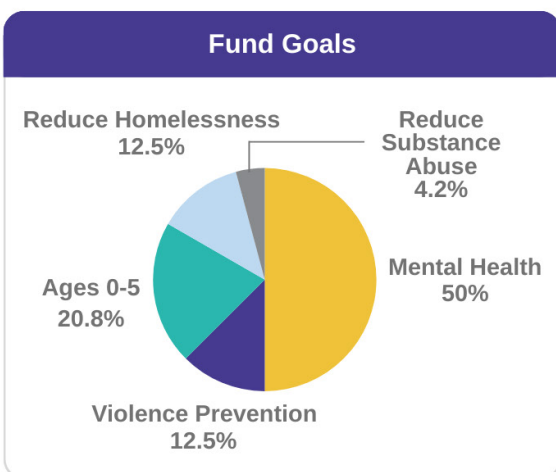
City staff worked directly with the City Attorney's office to assess panelists for conflicts of interest. Any panelist with a prohibited conflict of interest, including City staff and SCF Commissioners were disqualified from participating in the grant review panel.

City Staff conducted and recorded a Grant Advisory Review Panel Orientation to train the panelists on scoring and evaluating Sacramento Children's Fund grant applications and the Grants Management System using the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP. Additional office hours were set up throughout the review process and staff were available to assist panelists with technical assistance.

Grant Awards

On June 10, 2025, the City Council voted to approve the Sacramento Children's Fund Grant Awards, funding 24 programs and projects across all 8 districts and serving all five fund goals.

Here is a brief look at the Sacramento Children's Fund Grant Portfolio.
Note: GBI awards will be included in the portfolio evaluation once funded.



Scenario #1 Grant Portfolio Aligned with SIP Recommendations

Broad Fund Goal Coverage
70% of funded programs address multiple youth priorities
Every fund goal is represented in the portfolio (SIP pg. 25–26)

Strengthening CBOs
50% of program funds (\$8.9M) awarded to community-based orgs
Empowering trusted local service providers (SIP pg. 28)

Local & Emerging Partnerships
21% of awards go to small/emerging CBOs
Supporting grassroots, community-rooted innovation (SIP pg. 28)

Focused on Equity
91% of programs serve SEED/COI-identified neighborhoods
Directly addressing historic inequities (SIP pg. 27)

Sacramento Children's Fund Award List

Fund Goal	Applicant	Amount Awarded	District Served
Mental Health	Food Literacy Center	\$1,038,382.00	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8
Mental Health	PRO Youth & Families	\$1,005,826.00	2, 3, 4, 5
Mental Health	Campus Life Connection	\$389,176.00	5, 8
Mental Health	Project Optimism	\$414,395.67	2
Mental Health	Sacramento LGBT Community Center	\$414,395.67	4
Mental Health	Arabic Language Education for Everyone, Inc. (ALEFE, Inc.)	\$75,000.00	2
Mental Health	Starting Point for Refugee Children	\$75,000.00	5, 8
Mental Health	City of Sacramento-Sacramento Fire Department High School Career Technical Education Partnership Program	\$1,499,208.00	1, 4, 8
Mental Health	City of Sacramento-Sac News & Review Building Conversion	\$1,500,000.00	2
Mental Health	City of Sacramento-Youth Program Scholarship Fund- ongoing funds	\$1,295,000.00	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Mental Health	City of Sacramento-Sutter's Landing (28th & B) Regional Park-Skate Park	\$750,000.00	4
Mental Health	City of Sacramento-Granite Regional Park	\$1,442,569.47	6
Youth Homelessness	Lao Family Community Development, Inc.	\$1,200,000.00	4
Youth Homelessness	Sierra Service Project	\$1,199,333.00	2, 5
Youth Homelessness	Sacramento City Unified School District-Homeless Education Services Coordinator	\$747,949.00	4, 5, 6, 8
Substance Abuse	We Can Work It Out Inc	\$75,000.00	6
Youth Violence	Roberts Family Development Center	\$731,326.00	2
Youth Violence	Code 4 Hood Edu	\$75,000.00	6
Youth Violence	Communication and Education Organization for Development- CEOD	\$75,000.00	2
Children 0-5	City of Sacramento Recreation Explorer Camp Expansion	\$1,003,175.00	2, 3, 5, 6, 8
Children 0-5	Sacramento County Office of Edu.-SCOE Early learning program	\$724,328.52	5
Children 0-5	La Familia Counseling Center, Inc.	\$1,080,000.00	5
Children 0-5	Waking the Village	\$700,000.00	5, 6, 8
Children 0-5	Sacramento Literacy Foundation	\$414,395.67	2,4, 5, 6
Total Grant Awards		\$17,924,460.00	

Community Based Organizations

Arabic Language Education for Everyone, Inc. (ALEFE, Inc.) & Refugee Enrichment & Development Association



Fund Goal
Mental Health

Award Amount
\$75,000

Ages Served
0-18 Year-olds

Program Description

The ALEFE proposal consists of offering a Bilingual School Readiness Program to 18 low-income refugee preschool children, parenting workshops and one-on-one consultation to 18 of their parents. The expected outcome of the Bilingual School Readiness Program is to support the mental, social and emotional development of participating children by integrating their language/culture in the classroom. The School Readiness Program will be offered two days a week (3hours) for 3 school years (2025-26 until 2027-28) for 3 children annually.

*Collaborative Applicant - Refugee Enrichment Development Association, Inc.

Learn more: www.alefe.org and www.redacenter.org/home

Campus Life Connection



Fund Goal
Mental Health

Award Amount
\$389,176

Ages Served
3rd - 12th Grade Students

Program Description

Since 1998, Crossover Physical and Mental Health Academy has supported underserved youth in the Sacramento region through basketball leagues, AAU teams, and after-school programs offering tutoring, mentoring, mental health support, and life skills instruction. A Sacramento Children's Fund grant will help expand these services, providing up to 75 youth in grades 3-12 with increased access to these resources, including summer camps and community service opportunities. The program aims to improve mental health, reduce substance abuse, and prevent youth violence.

Learn more: www.campuslifeconnection.org

Code 4 Hood Edu



Fund Goal
Violence Prevention

Award Amount
\$75,000

Ages Served
12-24 year olds

Program Description

The Pathways to Success program serve 100 youth annually, ages 12-24, from under-resourced neighborhoods in Sacramento. It offers three core services: an after-school safe space with STEM activities, STEM workforce development in EV Technician and STEM Accelerator careers, and trauma-informed mentorship focusing on life skills and career readiness. The program aims to prevent violence, support mental health, and prepare youth for the workforce over three years.

Learn more: www.code4hood.org

Communication and Education Organization for Development- CEOD & Sacramento Youth Center



**SAC
YOUTH
CENTER**

Fund Goal

Violence Prevention

Award Amount

\$75,000

Ages Served

9th-12th Grade Students

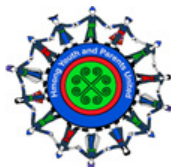
Program Description

The program provides culturally relevant mental health support for Afghan youth and families in select Sacramento zip codes, offering services such as psychosocial education, trauma recovery skills, peer counseling, and safe space group classes. It will serve 120 youth through bi-monthly emotional wellness workshops, teach 30 youth coping strategies via the Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) program, and support 20 youth with peer counseling and group therapy. Two cohorts of Safe Space Group Classes (5–8 participants each) will address mental health, substance abuse, violence, and wellness. The program aims to promote healing, resilience, and community integration.

Collaborative Applicant - Sacramento Youth Center.

Learn more: www.ceodnfp.org and www.sacyouthcenter.org

Escape Velocity Resources Foundation, Inc., Hmong Youth & Parents United (HYPU), Impact Sac & Pro Youth & Families



Fund Goal

Mental Health

Award Amount

\$ 1,005,826

Ages Served

13-19 Year-olds

Program Description

The MindOneSix Collective is a youth mental wellness initiative led by PRO Youth & Families, promoting healing, resilience, and leadership through culturally grounded, community-based programs. In partnership with local organizations, it will provide mental health education, mentoring, and leadership opportunities to 390 high-need youth, with a broader impact reaching 2,700 community members. The program aims to boost mental health literacy and create spaces of belonging and hope.

Learn more: www.proyouthandfamilies.org, www.escapevelocityfoundation.com, www.hypu.org, and www.impactscac.org

Food Literacy Center



Fund Goal

Mental Health

Award Amount

\$1,038, 382

Ages Served

5-12 Year-olds

Program Description

The Food Literacy Center offers free after-school cooking and nutrition programs in Sacramento's Title 1 schools, reaching up to 3,000 students over the grant period. The programs aim to combat childhood obesity and food insecurity by promoting healthy habits, supporting social-emotional learning, and fostering healthy cultural identities. This initiative aligns with the Citywide Youth Development Plan to enhance mental health and emotional wellness for at-risk youth.

Learn more: www.foodliteracycenter.org

La Familia Counseling Center, Inc.



Fund Goal

Children 0-5

Award Amount

\$1,080,000

Ages Served

0-5 year olds

Program Description

The Aim High Program supports families with children ages 0-5 through three components: First 12, Tiny Steps, and Little Scholar Pre-K. First 12 provides in-home parenting support and classes on topics like safe sleep and car seat safety. Tiny Steps promotes toddlers' social, emotional, and motor skills through play sessions and behavior management workshops. Little Scholar Pre-K helps prepare children for school with parental education and a summer program to ensure a smooth transition to school.

Learn more: www.lafcc.org

Lao Family Community Development, Inc.



**LAO FAMILY
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

Fund Goal

Youth Homelessness

Award Amount

\$1,200,000

Ages Served

18-24 year olds

Program Description

Lao Family Community Development's LiftUp Youth Program will support 18–24-year-olds in Downtown Sacramento, focusing on those affected by homelessness, trauma, and violence, including LGBTQ+ youth, immigrants, and youth with disabilities. The program provides housing assistance, mental health support, workforce development, and violence prevention. Delivered at LFCD's CARE Campus and satellite locations, the program aims for 80% of participants to transition to permanent housing, 90% to improve mental health literacy, and 80% to gain employment readiness skills, with 75% securing stable employment within nine months.

Learn more: www.lfcd.org

Project Optimism



Fund Goal

Mental Health

Award Amount

\$414,395.67

Ages Served

4th - 12th Grade Students

Program Description

Project Optimism's Mentoring Sessions (POMS) support underserved 4th–12th grade students through culturally responsive, school-based mentorship focused on social-emotional learning, leadership, and academic growth. Operating in 12 schools, the program serves 360 students annually with weekly workshops and mentorship that build emotional regulation, decision-making, and civic engagement.

Learn more: www.projectoptimism.org

Roberts Family Development Center



Fund Goal

Violence Prevention

Award Amount

\$731,326

Ages Served

K-12th Grade Students

Program Description

Roberts Family Development Center's Year-Round Youth Support Services aim to reduce youth violence and support mental wellness in Old North Sacramento/Del Paso Heights. Programs include expanded school-year and summer activities, youth employment, staff training in social justice, and weekly group mental health sessions for middle and high school students.

Learn more: www.robertsfdc.org

Sacramento LGBT Community Center



Fund Goal

Mental Health

Award Amount

\$414,395.67

Ages Served

13-24 Year-olds

Program Description

The Center will launch an LGBTQ+ Mental Health Training Program for graduate-level mental health trainees (MSW/MFT/PCC/PsyD) to support a new program serving LGBTQ+ youth ages 13–24 in Sacramento. Services will be provided at the Center's Lavender Heights location and affiliated housing sites by interns under the supervision of a licensed clinician experienced in LGBTQ+ affirming care. The program will offer individual and group therapy, aiming to provide 1,992 hours of services to 60 clients over the grant period. Key goals include increasing youth engagement in mental health services, improving outcomes, and developing a pipeline of LGBTQ+ affirming mental health professionals.

Learn more: www.saccenter.org

Sacramento Literacy Foundation & WellSpace Health



Fund Goal

Children 0-5

Award Amount

\$414,395.67

Ages Served

0-5 year olds

Program Description

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation and WellSpace Health are partnering to distribute 19,000 culturally relevant books to underserved children ages 0–5 in Sacramento. The project promotes early literacy, supports the Science of Reading, and reaches families often overlooked by traditional education systems.

Collaborative Applicant - WellSpace Health

Learn more: www.sacramentoliteracy.org and www.wellspacehealth.org

Sierra Service Project & WeForce Inc. Safe Harbor Sustainable Eco Housing



Fund Goal

Youth Homelessness

Award Amount

\$1,199,333

Ages Served

18-24 year olds

Program Description

Sierra Service Project proposes a three-year workforce development program employing 21 youth from Del Paso Heights and Oak Park to build six tiny homes, providing transitional housing for 48 families and supporting 96–144 youth under 18 in transitioning from homelessness to stable housing. Participants will receive training in leadership, construction, financial literacy, and career development to become community leaders addressing youth homelessness.

Collaborative Applicant - WeForce Inc. dba. Safe Harbor Sustainable Eco-Housing.

Learn more: www.sierraserviceproject.org and www.weforceinc.org/safe-harbor

Starting Point for Refugee Children



Fund Goal

Mental Health

Award Amount

\$75,000

Ages Served

12-14 Year-olds

Program Description

Starting Point United will provide approximately 120 young refugees with soccer gear, bilingual coaching, and character-building activities. The program promotes physical and emotional health, language development, and social connection. Community events and tournaments also help families build relationships and feel a sense of belonging in their new home.

Learn more: www.startingpointsac.org

Waking the Village



Fund Goal
Children 0-5

Award Amount
\$700,000

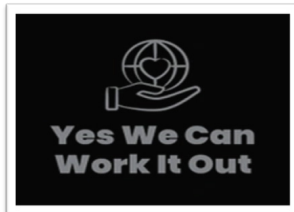
Ages Served
0-6 year olds

Program Description

Waking the Village seeks funding for 12 full-time, no-cost preschool spaces for infants and toddlers (ages 0-6) of young parents (ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness. The preschool, located at Saybrook Apartments in a high-needs neighborhood, provides developmentally appropriate care from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, supporting children's healthy development while their parents stabilize housing and wellness. The program focuses on trauma-informed care, ensuring safety and support during critical developmental stages.

Learn more: www.wakingthevillage.org

We Can Work It Out Inc & Always Knocking Inc.



Fund Goal
Substance Abuse

Award Amount
\$75,000

Ages Served
10-20 year olds

Program Description

The **Youth Impact Initiative (YII)** is an 18-month program serving 15 youth aged 10–20 in Sacramento, prioritizing those at risk of substance abuse and violence. It provides weekly harm reduction workshops, motivational interviewing, life coaching, conflict mediation, and job readiness training—delivered both virtually and in person at Always Knocking's 47th Avenue office. The program aims to build leadership, resilience, and access to education and employment. By blending culturally responsive support with evidence-based practices, YII seeks to reduce substance use and foster safer, healthier communities.

Collaborative Applicant – Always Knocking Inc.

Learn more: www.yeswecanworkitout.org

Public Entities

On June 10, 2025, the City Council voted to approve the Sacramento Children's Fund Grant Awards, funding 24 programs and projects across all 8 districts and serving all five fund goals.

City of Sacramento - Granite Regional Park



Fund Goal
Mental Health

Award Amount
\$1,442,569.47

Ages Served
5-24 year olds

Program Description

The Granite Regional Park project will replace a heavily used all-weather soccer field that has reached the end of its 15-year lifespan. Serving youth ages 5-24, the field is one of only two of its kind in Sacramento. Replacement is essential to prevent safety issues and maintain access to youth soccer. The new field is expected to last over 12 years.

Learn more: www.cityofsacramento.gov/ypce/parks/park-directory/g-h/granite-regional-park

City of Sacramento - Recreation Explorer Camp Expansion



Fund Goal
Children 0-5

Award Amount
\$1,003,175

Ages Served
3-5 year olds

Program Description

The Recreation Explorer Camp (R.E.C.) is a play-based program for youth ages 3-5, offering social, physical, academic, and emotional development in a safe, caring environment. Currently held at two community centers, the program will expand to five additional sites, aiming to serve up to 1,000 participants during the school year and summer.

Learn more: www.cityofsacramento.gov

City of Sacramento-Sac News & Review Building Conversion



Fund Goal
Mental Health

Award Amount
\$1,500,000

Ages Served
0-24 year olds

Program Description

The City of Sacramento plans to convert the former Sacramento News & Review building into the new North Sacramento-Hagginwood Library but rising costs threaten to delay the project. The library will provide a safe, modern space for youth and the broader community, with access to technology, education, and collaborative programming. Aligned with the City's agreement with the Sacramento Public Library, the project aims to empower underserved communities and foster learning, growth, and opportunity.

Learn more: www.cityofsacramento.gov

City of Sacramento - Sacramento Fire Department High School Career Technical Education Partnership Program



Fund Goal
Mental Health

Award Amount
\$1,499,208

Ages Served
18-24 year olds

Program Description

The Sacramento Fire Department's Diversity, Outreach, and Recruitment Division seeks funding for two Firefighter positions to support three high school Career Technical Education (CTE) programs: Valley High, Inderkum High, and Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School. These Firefighters, along with a Captain, will mentor 210,240 students annually, fostering academic success, community service, and self-discipline. The program aligns with the Youth Development Plan and aims to promote mental health, reduce youth violence, and provide career pathways by building resilience and offering positive role models.

Learn more: www.sacfire.org

City of Sacramento - Sutter's Landing (28th & B) Regional Park-Skate Park



Fund Goal
Mental Health

Award Amount
\$750,000

Ages Served
5-24 year olds

Program Description

The 28th & B Skate and Urban Art Park project will improve accessibility and safety by replacing worn wooden ramps with durable concrete structures and repairing damaged concrete surfaces. Based on community feedback, these upgrades will support beginner and intermediate skaters and eliminate the \$5 entrance fee. Once completed, the park will be open 12 hours a day, 365 days a year, offering free, safe, and inclusive space for youth to skate and connect.

Learn more: www.cityofsacramento.gov/ypce/parks/park-directory/s-t/sutters-landing-regional-park

City of Sacramento - Youth Program Scholarship Fund



Fund Goal
Mental Health

Award Amount
\$1,295,000

Ages Served
0-24 year olds

Program Description

The Youth Program Scholarship Fund (YPSF) provides financial assistance for under-resourced youth and families to access city programs and facilities. With a \$370,000 funding increase, the fund will expand eligibility and increase participants from 750 to over 7,000 youth annually. This includes programs like summer camps, sports, swim lessons, and special events. The fund is available to 30 youth-serving organizations and supported by expanded marketing, outreach, and application assistance to ensure all eligible youth have access.

Learn more: www.cityofsacramento.gov/ypce/Recreation/YPSF

Sacramento City Unified School District - Homeless Education Services Coordinator



Fund Goal
Youth Homelessness

Award Amount
\$747,949

Ages Served
0-18 year olds

Program Description

The SCUSD Homeless Education Services Program supports over 3,000 homeless students annually with academic help, mental health care, and basic needs. Through partnerships and outreach, it boosts student identification, builds leadership, and promotes graduation and long-term stability.

Learn more: www.scusd.edu

Sacramento County Office of Education - SCOE Early Learning Program



Fund Goal
Children 0-5

Award Amount
\$724,328.52

Ages Served
0-5 year olds

Program Description

SCOE Early Learning will support children ages 0–5 through early literacy and family engagement using culturally responsive approaches. Key efforts include expanding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to deliver books to 3,000 children in high-need zip codes and offering Joyful Literacy workshops for parents. Help Me Grow Sacramento will also connect families to resources that support literacy, mental health, and overall well-being.

Learn more: www.scoe.net

Lessons Learned

In fiscal year 2023/2024, the Sacramento Children's Fund developed and adopted the Strategic Investment Plan, released an open grants RFP and awarded nearly \$18 million dollars in grants to 24 programs and projects.

Built from the ground up, the Commission, careholders and City Staff have learned valuable lessons in the planning and implementation phases of the Measure's launch. Lessons learned are recorded below for transparency and commitment to continuous quality improvement:



Phase 1

Planning

- Implement Sacramento Children's Fund Planning and Oversight Commission Ad-Hoc committees for efficient working groups outside of official meetings to develop and review the Strategic Investment Plan.
- Include the Sacramento Children's Fund commission in the solicitation process for outside contractors for work product related to the Sacramento Children's Fund.
- Prioritize collaboration with the Sacramento Youth Commission including but not limited to joint meetings, presentations and communications, feedback solicitation.
- Provide stipends to community participants who engage in surveys, focus groups and interviews as part of the landscape analysis for the Strategic Investment Plan.
- Prioritize community engagement in the Strategic Planning Process



Phase 2

Implementation

- Simplify the Request for Proposals for applicants
- Review requirements and/or threshold organizational budget amounts for Audited Financial Statements as part of the RFP.
- Refine the RFP and application process to be more friendly to small and emerging Community Based Organizations
- Provide capacity building and application support to small and emerging Community Based Organizations
- Recruit potential Grant Advisory Review Panelists early, provide stipends for their participation and streamline the conflict review process
- Upgrade the City of Sacramento Grants Management System for ease of use and to fix technical issues



Next Steps

Questions to Consider

- How well does the open grants portfolio reflect the priorities of the Strategic Investment Plan?
- What adjustments can we make to our solicitation processes to better reflect the priorities in the Strategic Investment Plan?
- How can we support small and emerging CBOs in the grant application process?
- What potential changes can we anticipate making to the Strategic Investment Plan at the three year review mark?
- How can we improve upon our transparency throughout the planning and implementation phases?
- How can we improve upon community engagement during the planning and implementation phases?

Thank You



The launch of the Sacramento Children's Fund marks a historic step in advancing opportunities and equity for Sacramento's children and youth. We extend our deepest gratitude to the community partners, City leadership, Commissioners, staff, and youth advocates whose dedication and collaboration made this first year a success.

Together, we awarded nearly \$18 million to programs that will strengthen mental health, prevent youth homelessness, reduce violence and substance abuse, and support early childhood development. These investments reflect our shared commitment to building a healthier, more vibrant future for Sacramento's young people.

Thank you for your partnership, your voice and your continued support as we work toward lasting impact for the children and youth of our city.

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



GET IN TOUCH WITH US.

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